

BRIDGING THE ORIGINS DIVIDE

Framework + Definitions Pack (Reader Bonus)

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Purpose

This book and resource exist for **unity where there's division, clarity where there's confusion, and light where there's darkness**—especially around the origins debate and the questions it raises about God, meaning, and biblical authority.

Many disagreements persist because people **start with different assumptions**, mix categories (treating philosophical questions as if they were only scientific), or jump straight to timelines and mechanisms without addressing the foundational question: **Is there a Creator?**

This Framework + Definitions Pack is designed to help you slow down, define terms clearly, think in the right order, and have more honest conversations—whether you are convinced, cautious, curious, or skeptical.

The Framework Map

The Core Sequence

This book follows a simple order because order matters:

1) Is there a Creator?

Before we debate timelines or mechanisms, we begin with the foundational question: **why does anything exist at all?**

2) What is the Creator like?

If a Creator exists, then His nature matters—power, intelligence, goodness, justice, and whether He is personal.

3) What are the implications for origins and Genesis?

Once the foundation is in place, we can address questions about creation, Scripture's authority, and the “origins divide” between competing worldviews.

Key point: Many debates drift because they start with secondary questions and never build the foundation first.

The Three Big Questions the Book Answers

1. **Where did everything come from?**
 2. **What does that imply about meaning, morality, and purpose?**
 3. **How should we think about Genesis and origins once the foundation is clear?**
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Category Clarity (Why People Talk Past Each Other)

A lot of confusion comes from mixing categories. Different tools answer different kinds of questions.

What science does well

Science is excellent at studying **processes inside the universe**:

- patterns
- mechanisms
- repeatable measurements
- models of how things behave

What philosophy addresses

Philosophy asks foundational questions such as:

- Why is there something rather than nothing?
- What is ultimate cause?
- What is meaning and purpose?
- Is morality objective or only preference?

What theology addresses

Theology deals with:

- what God has revealed
- how Scripture is to be understood
- how God relates to the world and humanity

Key distinction:

Science can describe processes, but it cannot—by itself—answer ultimate questions of cause, meaning, and moral grounding.

A simple “conversation reset” line

When things get heated, this question helps:

“Are we talking about a scientific mechanism, or an ultimate-cause question?”

Key Definitions

Creator

The ultimate cause of the universe—distinct from the universe.

If matter exists, the Creator is not merely a rearrangement of matter, but the cause of matter.

Ultimate Cause

The “bottom layer” explanation: why anything exists at all.

A chain of causes cannot explain itself without a foundation.

Worldview

The framework that shapes how you interpret reality—origins, meaning, morality, purpose, and truth.

Naturalism (as a starting assumption)

A worldview assumption that nature is all that exists and only natural causes are allowed in explanations.

Note: This is often a starting assumption, not a proven conclusion.

Anti-supernaturalism

A strong form of naturalism that rejects the supernatural in principle.

This assumption shapes which explanations are allowed before evidence is even evaluated.

Theodicy

The question of suffering and unanswered prayer:

“How can God be good if there is evil and pain in the world?”

Biblical Authority

The conviction that Scripture is truthful and trustworthy, and that it has rightful authority over belief and practice.

Genesis (as an interpretive issue)

Genesis becomes a central issue because interpretations of origins influence:

- worldview foundations
 - trust in Scripture
 - how people view God's nature and actions in history
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Assumptions → Conclusions (Why Starting Points Matter)

Most people don't realize how much the "origins debate" depends on starting assumptions.

Common starting assumptions

- "Only natural causes are allowed."
- "A Creator is impossible or irrelevant."
- "Scripture must be reinterpreted to fit modern models."
- "Genesis should be read straightforwardly unless context demands otherwise."

Why assumptions matter

Starting assumptions act like a filter. They determine:

- what counts as an acceptable explanation
- what evidence is emphasized or minimized
- which conclusions feel "reasonable" before the conversation even begins

A practical test:

Ask yourself:

"If I changed my starting assumptions, would I interpret the same evidence differently?"

A respectful way to discuss assumptions

Instead of saying, "You're wrong," ask:

- "What assumptions are you starting with?"
- "Are those assumptions proven, or chosen?"

- “What would you reconsider if those assumptions were challenged?”

This keeps the conversation honest and productive.

Quick Reference (Keep This Handy)

If you only remember 10 lines:

1. Start with the first question: **Is there a Creator?**
2. The Creator question is foundational—everything else is downstream.
3. Next ask: **What is the Creator like—good, just, personal?**
4. Origins debates often confuse categories (science vs ultimate cause).
5. Science explains processes; philosophy asks “why anything exists.”
6. Assumptions shape conclusions more than most people realize.
7. Naturalism and anti-supernaturalism are often assumptions, not proofs.
8. If God exists, meaning and moral accountability are real questions.
9. Genesis matters because it touches biblical authority and worldview.
10. Healthy discussions begin with clarity, humility, and honest reasoning.

The respectful skeptic question

“If matter exists, **what caused it?**”

Chapter pointers (for readers who want to go deeper)

- **Chapter 2:** Five arguments for God’s existence
- **Chapter 4:** Faith versus science
- **Chapters 5–7:** The nature of the Creator and theodicy
- **Chapters 8–11:** Genesis and origins implications

— **Paul Myrant**

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